



MELTON MOWBRAY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1938.

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A N N U A L   R E P O R T  
of the  
M E D I C A L   O F F I C E R   O F   H E A L T H  
for the year 1938.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to present my thirty-seventh Annual Report on the Health of your District.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	..	..	..	..	..	5,658
Population Census 1931	..	..	..	..	..	10,437
Estimated resident population middle of 1938						11,330
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938)	..					3,252
Rateable value	..	..	..	..	..	£73,027
Sum represented by a penny rate	..	..				£283

Social Conditions.

Melton Mowbray, being the premier hunting centre in England, has a large influx of population during the hunting season.

The town is widely known for its manufacture of pork-pies, and Stilton cheeses. The other principal industries include a large Wool Spinning Mill, a Joinery Works employing about 400 persons, and two Boot and Shoe Factories.

A number of employees at the Asfordby Iron Works reside in Melton Mowbray.

Vital Statistics.

Births,	legitimate	M. 106	F. 89	Total	195
"	illegitimate	M. <u>4</u>	F. <u>2</u>	Total	<u>6</u>
	Totals:-	<u>110</u>	<u>91</u>		<u>201</u>
Still-births	..	..	4 (all legitimate)		
Birth-rate	..	..	..	..	17.7
Birth-rate for England & Wales	..	..	..	..	15.1
Deaths:	Males 63.	Females 72.	Total	135	
Crude Death-rate	..	..	..	..	11.9

REPORT OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
BUREAU OF MINES

FOR THE YEAR  
1907

CHICAGO  
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Vital Statistics (Contd:)

Comparative Death-rate (i.e. allowing for age and sex distribution)	12.1
Death-rate for England & Wales .. .. .	11.6
Deaths of Infants under one year of age: 7 (all legitimate)	
Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 births .. .. .	34
Infant Mortality Rate for England & Wales .. .. .	53

Causes of Death.

<u>Causes of Death.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
<u>All Causes.</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>72</u>
Encephalitis Lethargica .. .. .	-	1
Respiratory tuberculosis .. .. .	-	1
Other tuberculosis .. .. .	1	-
Cancer .. .. .	10	10
Diabetes .. .. .	1	4
Cerebral haemorrhage &c. .. .. .	1	13
Heart disease .. .. .	19	18
Other circulatory diseases .. .. .	-	3
Bronchitis .. .. .	4	-
Pneumonia .. .. .	3	5
Other respiratory diseases .. .. .	1	1
Peptic ulcer .. .. .	3	2
Diarrhoea &c. (under 2 years) .. .. .	-	-
Cirrhosis of the liver .. .. .	1	-
Other liver diseases .. .. .	1	-
Other digestive diseases .. .. .	1	-
Acute and chronic nephritis .. .. .	-	3
Puerperal sepsis .. .. .	-	-
Other puerperal causes .. .. .	-	1
Congenital causes .. .. .	5	4
Senility .. .. .	2	2
Suicide .. .. .	1	-
Other violence .. .. .	5	1
Other defined causes .. .. .	4	3





## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

The particulars furnished in previous Annual Reports are substantially applicable, no special alterations or developments having taken place during the year. This year 1939 witnesses the completion of the Poor Law Institution Infirmary at a cost of £30,000.

### Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:-

The Medical Officer of Health acts for the Leicestershire & Rutland Combined Districts in which this District is included. He will be retired on 1st July 1939 when the duties will be taken over by Dr. John Young. The District Surveyor and Water Engineer held the appointment of Sanitary Inspector until 1st May 1938 when Mr. H. Buxton was appointed as a full time Sanitary Inspector, having been selected from eighty applicants.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### Water:-

Further extensions to mains have been made in order to supply new building estates and two mains have been replaced.

In connection with the joint scheme (Melton Mowbray U.D.C. & Melton & Belvoir R.D.C.) the Pumping Station and the Collecting Tank at Wartnaby have been completed.

The Chlorinating plants are functioning efficiently, three chemical and five bacteriological examinations having all proved satisfactory.

No shortage has occurred during the year.

### Drainage & Sewerage:-

Satisfactory, the town being on the whole well sewered. There are now only seven cesspools in the District. A good sewage effluent has I think been maintained throughout the year.

### Closet Accommodation:-

Nearly all the houses are provided with cistern-flushed water-closets, the numbers of each type of accommodation being approximately as follows:-

Privies	1
Pail-closets	4
Water-closets	3,296

There were no conversions to water-carriage during the year.

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### Public Cleansing:-

Most of the houses are provided with movable ashbins.

Refuse is collected by direct-labour and is removed in motor-lorries to the Refuse Destructor.

### Sanitary Inspection of the Area:-

The Sanitary Inspector submits the following synopsis:-

Total No. of complaints received	..	..	..	..	71
" " " defects or nuisances discovered	..	..			112
" " " inspections made for all purposes	..	..			1,035
" " " notices served - Informal 59. Formal 2. Total					61
" " " " complied with during the year	..				55
" " " summonses issued	..	..	..	..	Nil

Details of Sanitary Inspections are included under their relevant headings.

### Shops and Offices:-

Two defective sanitary conveniences were rectified.

### Camping Sites:-

None in the Area and no licences have been issued. One application was rejected.

### Smoke Abatement:-

Two nuisances were abated through greater attention and care in stoking.

### Swimming Baths and Pools:-

There is one publicly owned swimming pool which is emptied and cleansed weekly. The water is treated with 'Chloros'. Running water from the Scalford brook passes through a paddling pool for children.

A privately owned swimming bath at the 'Swan's Nest' is supplied with running water from the River Eye.

### Eradication of bed bugs:-

One Council house and eight other dwellings were found to be infested. They were fumigated by means of special sulphur lamps and sprayed with 'Zaldecide'.

All houses and contents are now fumigated and sprayed before rehousing the tenants in Council houses.



I would direct attention to the importance of having tenants' belongings treated by Cyanide in special vans on moving from infested, or possibly infested, houses. A Contractor should be employed for this purpose.

Regulated Buildings:-

Two Common Lodging Houses have been reported as being unsatisfactory and a sub-committee has been appointed to consider the provision of a suitable lodging house. It is certainly most desirable that Common Lodging Houses should be owned by the Local Authority.

There are no Offensive Trades in the District.

Schools:-

The sanitary conditions are satisfactory and all have the public water supply.

H O U S I N G.

Number of New Houses erected during the year:-

(a) By Local Authority	.. .. .	56
(b) By other bodies or persons	.. .. .	70

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	..	221
Number of inspections made for the purpose	.. ..	279
(2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	..	23
Number of inspections made for the purpose	.. ..	42
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	.. .. .	6
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	..	17

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	.. .. .	24
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### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

#### A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16, of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. ..	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
(a) By Owners .. .. .	6
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ..	Nil

#### B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
(a) By Owners .. .. .	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ..	Nil

#### C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. .. .	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. .. .	13

### 4. Housing Act, 1935. Overcrowding.

(a) i. Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	17
ii. Number of families dwelling therein .. ..	19
iii. Number of persons dwelling therein .. ..	139
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil
(c) i. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	16
ii. Number of persons concerned in such cases	112
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after Local Authority had taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding .. .. .	Nil

### INSPECTION and SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

#### Milk:-

<u>Retailers:</u>	No. on Register .. .. .	10
<u>(other than cowkeepers):</u>	No. of inspections of premises ..	8
	No. of contraventions found (using ventilated churns) ..	3
	No. of contraventions remedied ..	3

#### Producers: (including cowkeepers who retail their own milk):-

No. on Register .. .. .	24
No. of inspections made .. ..	14





Contraventions:-

		<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>
(1) Cleansing	.. ..	2	2
(2) Structural Alterations		4	Nil

Bacteriological examinations for cleanliness:

Designated milk	2	Both satisfactory
Ordinary milk	42	

The latter were classified in four grades, as follows:-

Grade I 33, Grade II 3, Grade III 5 and Grade IV 1.

All the Grade III and IV samples were from farms outside the District.

Farms have been visited and advice given as to better methods of production, storage and distribution.

One licence was issued for retail distribution of Pasteurised milk.

Meat and other Foods:-

There is one public abattoir in district.

Private slaughter houses:-	<u>In January 1938</u>	<u>In December 1938</u>
No. registered	3	3
No. licenced	1	1
No. of inspections of premises other than at times of slaughter	.. ..	12
No. of inspections of meat at time of slaughter		372
No. of knacker yards in the District	.. ..	1
No. of visits to knacker yards	.. ..	10

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Total Weight in lbs.
Number killed (if known)	1310	60	94	4470	2500	-
Number inspected	706	40	61	2582	1762	-
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	1	1	205
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	109	2	1	45	36	794
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	15.4%	5%	1.6%	1.8%	2.1%	-
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	2	-	-	-	-	1244
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	54	3	-	-	54	1776
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	7.9%	7.5%	-	-	3.0%	-





# Meat Stalls:-

No. of inspections .. .. . 5

# Meat Shops, Meat Stores etc.:-

No. of inspections .. .. . 22

# Places where food (other than meat) is kept or prepared for sale:-

No. of inspections .. .. . 48

Food exposed for sale in the open market is regularly inspected.

Five contraventions were found and abated.

Two tins of ox tongue and two tins of prawns were condemned, surrendered and destroyed.

## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The notified cases of Infectious Disease were as follows:-

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Cases notified.</u>	<u>Removed to Hospital.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Scarlet fever	9	7	-
Diphtheria	1	2	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Pneumonia	17	-	8
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	1	-
Cerebro-spinal fever	1	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	2	-

Three cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were reported. The patients were treated at home and recovered with vision unimpaired.

The TUBERCULOSIS cases and deaths are classified as follows:-

Age-Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Other forms		Respiratory.		Other forms.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 and under 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
5 " " 10 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 " " 15 "	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 " " 20 "	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
20 " " 25 "	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
25 " " 35 "	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 " " 45 "	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	-
45 " " 55 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 " " 65 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards Fibroid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:-	2	4	-	2	-	1	1	-





The fatal cases had been previously notified.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, nor was any action called for under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The following examinations were made at the County Council's Bacteriological Laboratory:-

Sputa for tubercle bacilli	..	81
Swabs for diphtheria	.. ..	54
Urine (general & bacteriological)		47
Blood for Wasserman Test	.. ..	35
Urine for tubercle bacilli	..	41
Widal's Test for Typhoid Fever	..	25
Milk examinations	.. .. .	73
Films for gonococci	.. .. .	6
Miscellaneous	.. .. .	8
Total:-		<u>370</u>

In addition the following were received from the Melton Isolation Hospital:-

Swabs for diphtheria	.. ..	1,285
Material for Typhoid Fever	..	3
Miscellaneous	.. .. .	4
Total:-		<u>1,292</u>

Factories, Workshops & Workplaces:-

Inspections:-

Factories with mechanical power	No. of inspections	8
	No. of written notices	-
Factories without mechanical power	No. of inspections	6
	No. of written notices	-
Other premises	No. of inspections	2
	No. of written notices	-
Total inspections		16
Total written notices		Nil



Defects Found:-

Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:-

	<u>No. found.</u>	<u>No. remedied.</u>
Want of Cleanliness .. .. .	1	1
Sanitary Conveniences unsuitable or defective	3	3
Other offences .. .. .	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	5	5
	<u><u>5</u></u>	<u><u>5</u></u>

It was not found necessary to refer any matter to H.M. Inspector.

No instance of Out-work in unwholesome premises came under observation.

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I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. E. O'CONNOR, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health

~~(until 1st April 1939).~~

Kirby Muxloe,

Leicester.

3rd June, 1939.

1891

Received of the Treasurer of the County of ...

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